

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04282 280737Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN, BG

SUBJ: BANGLADESH'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 11006 (B) DACCA 3830, AUGUST 27, 1974

(2.) A-43, JULY 25, 1974

1. EMBOFF MET WITH DR. INNAS ALI, CHAIRMAN, BANGLADESH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (BAEC), ON AUGUST ATR TO UPDATE INFORMATION CONTAINED REFS B AND C. DR. ALI SAID BAEC IS ASKING BDG TO BUILD AN ATOMIC RESEACH CENTER AT SEVAR ABOUT 14 MILES FROM DACCA. IF RESEARCH CENTER IS ACTUALLY BUILT AND IF FUNDS ARE FOUND TO BUILD RESEARCH REACTOR, THE REACTOR WILL LOCATED ADJACENT TO RESEARCH CENTER.

2. DR. ALI REVIEWED THE CY 1974 PERFORMANCE UNDER INDIA/BANGLADESH ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT (REF B) AND OUTLINED 1975 PLANS. HE SAID ONLY ONE BANGALEE WAS SENT TO INDIA FOR TRAINING DURING 1974 (PROGRAM CALLED FOR 20 TO BE SENT). HEADS OF RESPECTIVE AEC'S EXCHANGED VISITS AS CALLED FOR BY 1974 PROGRAM. ALI SAID 1974 PROGRAM WAS NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE BDG WISHED TO

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PAGE 02 DACCA 04282 280737Z

EXPRESS ITS DISPLEASURE WITH THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. IHE

1975 PROGRAM ALTHOUGH SMALLER, IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS

LAST YEAR'S, CALLING FOR TRAINING OF BANGALEE SCIENTISTS (2) AND
TECHNICIANS (3) IN INDIA.

3. THERE IS GREAT INTEREST IN BUILDING A RESEARCH REACTOR AMONG
THE SMALL COTERIE OF WESTERN TRAINED NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS AT BAEC.
DR. ALI TOLD US THAT THE "CONCEPTUAL" DESIGN HAS BEEN COMPLETED ON
A ONE MEGAWATT "SWIMMING POOL" TYPE REACTOR AND THAT THE BAEC WAS
NOW WORKING ON SPECIFICATIONS. HE SAID BAEC HOPED TO USE COMPONENTS
FROM MANY SOURCES BUT MANY ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE
PROCURED IN U.S. I.E., FUEL, CONTROL RODS, REACTOR CONTROLS. ALI
EMPHASIZED THAT THE RESEARCH REACTOR WOULD BE DESIGNED AND BUILT
BY BANGLADESH'S WITH, HE HOPED, HELP FROM SEVERAL SOURCES.

4. COMMENT: OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKEHOOD OF BANGLADESH
OBTAINING A NUCLEAR REACTOR IN THE NEAR FUTURE REMAINS ESSENTIALLY
THE SAME AS THAT CONTAINED IN REF C, I.E., UNLIKELY. IN ADDITION,
DR. ALI CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT IF AND WHEN A REACTOR IS BUILT IN
BANGLADESH IT WOULD NOT BE A JOINT VENTURE WITH INDIA. ALI APPARENTLY
ASSUMES THAT BANGLADESH WILL HAVE TO BUY MOST OF THE HARDWARE WITH
ITS OWN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND THUS WILL CHOOSE THE BEST (READ US)
EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE BUT, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, ANY SUCH PURCHASES ARE
A LONG WAY OFF.
BOSTER

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